(ख) उपलब्ध सूचना के अनुसार, प्रत्येक राज्य के सामने दर्शाई गई तिथि से अधिनियम लागू है:—

1. असम	27 नवम्बर, 1990 से
2. नागालैण्ड	07 अप्रैल, 1995 से
3. मणिपुर	28 सितम्बर, 1970 से
4. अरुणाचल प्रदेश	17 सितम्बर, 1991 से
5. पंजाब	15 अक्तूबर, 1983 से
6. चंडीगढ़ (संघ शासित क्षेत्र)	15 अक्तूबर, 1983 से
7. जम्मू व कश्मीर	5 जुलाई, 1990 से

(ग) से (ङ) इन राज्यों में उग्रवाद और अलगाववादी गतिविधियों को काबू करने के लिए अधिनियम को जारी रखना आवश्यक समझा गया। उक्त प्रावधान को जारी रखने का निर्णय करने के लिए स्थिति पर सतत् निगरानी रखी जाती है और समीक्षा की जाती है। इस समय की वास्तविक स्थिति, अधिनियम में निहित शक्तियों को वापस लेना, न्याय संगत सिद्ध नहीं करती।

India's Membership in APEC

1079. MAULANA OBAIDULLAH KHAN AZMI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the efforts being made by India for the membership of Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC); and

(b) the response of APEC in regard to India's membership?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJARAL): (a) India has formally conveyed to members of Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) its interest in associating with APEC and participating in its activities.

(b) The APEC Ministerial Meeting held in Seattle in November 1993, took a decision to impose a moratorium for three years on admission of additional members into APEC. In view of this decision, the question of admission of India and other new members does not arise at this stage. Meanwhile, India is pursuing participation in three APEC Working Groups, viz., Trade Promotion, Industrial Science & Technology and Regional Energy Cooperation

Construction of Flyovers/over bridges on Major Road and Railway Crossings

1080. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to construct flyovers or overbridges on major road crossing and railway level crossing in the Metropolitans and other Urban areas for free flow of traffic and for saving precious petroleum products; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T. G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) and (b) Consti-tutionally, Central Government is responsible for development and maintenance of National Highways. All roads other than National Highways and the Road Over Bridges thereon fall within the purview of the State Government These also include roads within Metropolitan and Urban areas. As far as National Highways are concerned, ROBs are constructed depending upon road and rail traffic and subject to availability of funds.

Excess Billing of Telephone Bills in Jhangbirpur Exchange of Darbhanga Division

1081. SHRI RAM DEO BHANDARI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the complaints of telephone bills in Jhanghirpur Exchange of Darbhanga Division during the year 1995-96 and 1996-97 upto date;

(b) whether any Member of Parliament has complained about the excess billing of telephone;

(c) if so, the reasons of the excess billing;

(d) the number of complaints disposed off; and

(e) the measures are being taken to reduce the cases of excess billing?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA). (a) The number of complaints for telephone

bills received in Jhanghirpur Exchange is given below:—

1995-96	5
1996-97 upto date	3

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) On complaint from the Hon'ble Member of Parliament, technical check was carried out and no fault was found. There was threrefore no cause for excess billing.

(d) All five complaints of 1995-96 have been disposed off.

(e) Following measures are being taken to reduce the cases of excess billing.

1. Subscribers having STD/ISD facilities are brought on electronic exchanges to the extent possible, which provides dynamic STD/ISD locking facility.
2. Indoor equipment and outdoor plants are regularly checked to ensure that there is no technical fault.
3. All DPs Pillars are put under lock to prevent misuse. Entry to the exchanges has been restricted.
4. Vigilance unit also conducts surprise checks to detect possible misuse or diversion of line.

National Defence Policy Documents

1082. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Standing Committee on Defence has recommended to examine the feasibility of preparing a National Defence Policy document; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, In its Sixth Report, the Standing Committee on Defence (1995-96) had expressed the desire that the Government examine the feasibility of preparing a formal National Defence Policy document for being placed before the Parliament.

India has a comprehensive strategic policy based *inter-alia* on our threat perceptions and the global and regional security environment. This policy is continuously under review in the light of developments which impact on our national security.

Decrease in Water Level

1083. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice of Government that water level has gone down below the normal limit in wells in the States of Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajashtan, Orissa and West Bengal; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the respective Governments to store rain water and to make use of the same during the lean months?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) Yes, Sir. As per the observations made on long term basis, decline of ground water level below the normal limit has been observed in certain parts of some districts of the States of Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Orissa and West Bengal.

(b) In order to overcome the problem of decline in the level of ground water, these States are having water shed development programme to store rain water by constructing check dams, percolation tanks, farm ponds and through soil-water conservation.

ईस्टर्न बंगाल फ्रंटियर रेग्युलेशन अधिनियम (एस.आई.सी.) 1873

1084. श्री कनकसिंह मोहनसिंह मंगरोला: क्या गृह मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या ईस्टर्न बंगाल फ्रंटियर रेगुलेशन अधिनियम, 1873 अभी भी कुछ पूर्वोत्तर राज्यों में लागू है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(ग) यदि नहीं, तो उक्त अधिनियम के स्थान पर लागू किए गए अधिनियम का ब्यौरा क्या है?

गृह मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री मोहम्मद मकबूल डार): (क) जी हां, श्रीमान्।